



U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office for Domestic Preparedness

ODP FUNDING PROCESS

Since the Department of Homeland Security assumed control of the Office for Domestic Preparedness on March 1, 2003, nearly \$3 billion dollars has been made available in the form of grants from ODP to the states and the cities to prepare our nation's first responders. In the past year, the amount of funding made available to the states has increased by 808%. The most recent round of funding made available from ODP was in the amount of \$700 million dollars from the FY '03 Supplemental Budget as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative.

As soon as Congress appropriates funding, ODP prepares a tailored grant application for the eligible applicants. The grant solicitation is posted on the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Grants Management System (GMS) website**, and eligible applicants apply for the grant. Upon receipt of an acceptable grant application, the ODP program office processes the grant within seven days, and the OJP Office of the Comptroller awards the grant within 21 days. Since the start of the Homeland Security Department on March 1, 2003, an expedited process allows for faster awards to the eligible applicants. Although these timelines are the stated parameters for processing, in most cases, ODP completes their review within 24 hours and the Comptroller completes their portion within 10 days.

In Fiscal Year 2003, ODP instituted timelines for the submission of grant applications, as well as timelines for states to obligate funds under the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – Parts 1 & 2. Under these timelines, states had 45 days to apply for the SHSGP Part 1 and 30 days to apply for SHSGP Part 2. States then had to obligate these funds within 45 days of the grant award. While these are aggressive timelines, they are meant to move money out to the local jurisdictions as quickly as possible. This is the first set of grant applications that have had a firm deadline; in other years, the grant deadline was either non-specific or tied to the submission of the state's Domestic Preparedness Strategy.

In addition to the stringent timelines for submission of the application and obligation of funds, ODP has significantly expedited the application process. Under the SHSGP – Part 2, states are only required to fill out the necessary assurances in the GMS in order to receive the grant award.

** It was determined in March that the best way to expedite the grant process was to leave existing websites in place until later this year. ODP plans to launch a site on the DHS portal once the software systems are in place.